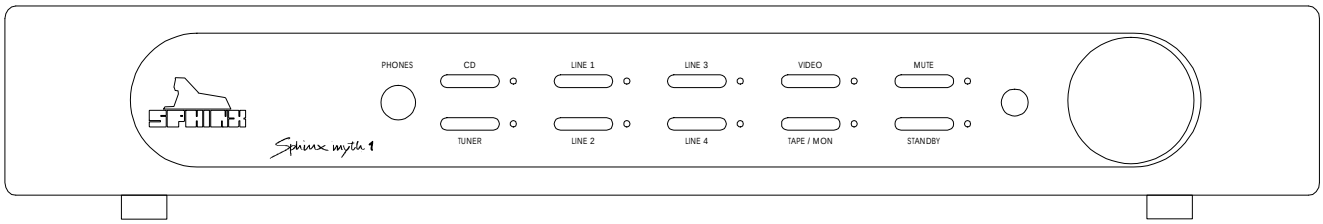
USER MANUAL

MYTH 1

PRE-AMP



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Congratulations on your purchase of the Sphinx Myth 1!

You are now a member of an ever-increasing group of quality-conscious audiophiles using Sphinx products.
We are very proud of the tradition connected with the SPHINX name, especially concerning audio quality perfection.
This manual will help you to gain a maximum amount of pleasure and quality from your new Sphinx Myth 1 Pre-Amp.

This pre-amp uses the newest technologies and refined designs and is extremely simple to operate. Designs that successfully have been used in the award winning Project Eight.
Such as the ultra-linear extremely low-noise Class-A audio circuits, built from the finest hand-selected parts.
The signal path is completely balanced from input to output, and left and right are totally separated.
The power supply is of a unique design (fully Class-A!) and consists of three completely separate and independent sections: one for the digital control, plus one each for the left and right channel.
Input selection is done by means of precision relays. The ALPS volume control is motor-driven.
All settings and controls can also be done via the supplied Sphinx *Remote Control*.

To obtain the maximum quality from this power amp it is necessary to use it with top quality audio components, preferably with other Sphinx components.

Please read this manual carefully before you install or use the Myth 1. It is important to familiarise yourself with the special functions, operation and possibilities of the Sphinx Myth 1.

Your local dealer will be able to answer any questions concerning other Sphinx audio components.

1. UNPACKING

Before leaving the factory every Myth 1 is subjected to stringent and extensive technical and exterior quality inspection.
This ensures you will enjoy many years of high quality audio from a perfect-looking product.

After unpacking your Myth 1, we therefore recommend you carefully check it for any transport damage.
In case of damage: please contact your Sphinx dealer immediately and retain all packing materials for possible proof of damage and possible claims.

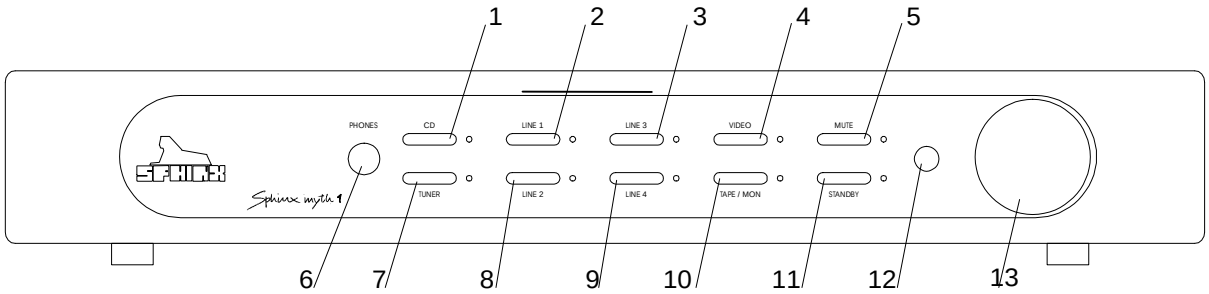
Even if the component is in perfect condition you should still keep the packing materials. If you need to transport your Myth 1 at a later time it will be best protected by the original packing materials.

2. SPHINX WARRANTY CARD

Please take this opportunity to fill out the enclosed warranty card now!
Follow the instructions on the card or consult your dealer.
Please send the card as soon as possible to the return address (within 14 days after purchase).

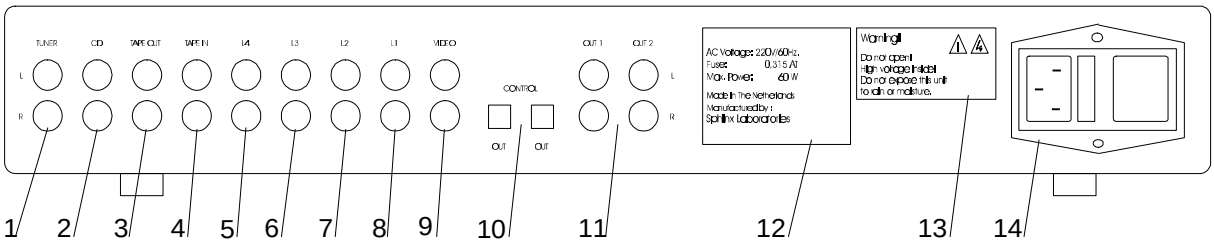
3. THE PRE-AMP AT A GLANCE

Front panel



1. **CD:** To select the CD input. The red LED will light.
2. **LINE 1:** To select the Line 1 input. The red LED will light.
3. **LINE 3:** To select the Line 3 input. The red LED will light.
4. **VIDEO:** To select the Video line input. The red LED will light.
5. **MUTE:** Press this button to temporarily mute the sound. The red LED will light.
6. **PHONES:** To connect dynamic stereo headphones.
7. **TUNER:** To select the Tuner input. The red LED will light.
8. **LINE 2:** To select the Line 2 input. The red LED will light.
9. **LINE 4:** To select the Line 4 input. The red LED will light.
10. **TAPE / MON:** To select the TAPE IN input. The red LED will light.
11. **STANDBY:** To switch the component on and off:
    on LED is off
    off LED is red
12. **Receptor window** for the IR signals from the Remote Control.
13. **VOLUME:** This rotary knob adjusts the volume level.

Rear panel



1. **TUNER:** To connect the signal cable from the tuner.
2. **CD:** To connect the signal cable from the CD player.
3. **TAPE OUT:** Connect this output to the *input* of the recorder.
4. **TAPE IN:** Connect this input to the *output* of the recorder.
5. **LINE 4:** To connect the signal cable from the signal source for LINE 4.
6. **LINE 3:** To connect the signal cable from the signal source for LINE 3.
7. **LINE 2:** To connect the signal cable from the signal source for LINE 2.
8. **LINE 1:** To connect the signal cable from the signal source for LINE 1.
9. **VIDEO**: To connect the signal cable from the audio output of the video source.
10. **Control Out**: To connect the optical cable(s) to other Sphinx component(s).
11. **OUT 1 and 2 L+R:** Connect this output with a signal cable to the input of your power amp.
12. **Manufacturer's label:** This shows important data for the component, such as serial number and mains power voltage.
13. **Warning!:** This shows important information about the safety regulations for the Myth 1.
14. **AC Power**: Connect the mains cable to a mains power outlet (100 - 240 VAC).
    The mains fuse is placed behind the cover.

4. INSTALLATION AND CONNECTIONS

Installation

The Myth 1 will not become very hot, so placement is not critical, although you should not place it on top of or near other heat-radiating equipment (such as power amps) or in direct sunlight.
If you need to use the pre-amp in a closed cabinet or on a bookshelf, you should definitely provide unrestricted ventilation around the component.

To prevent any possible interference keep power supply cables away from all audio cables.

If all these conditions are met, the Myth 1 will perform to the extremely high standards it is designed for.

Connecting the mains cable

Before you connect the cable please check whether the mains voltage indicated on the manufacturer's label on the rear panel is the same as your local mains voltage.
If not: please contact your dealer and do not connect the component to the mains.

You switch the pre-amp on or off with the ❍·STANDBY button. This way the electronic circuits will be kept at optimum working temperature so you can enjoy maximum audio quality immediately after switching on. Additionally it significantly increases the life span of the component.

Connect the mains cable after you have connected all other components in the system and have double-checked all connections (see Chapter 5.)

Audio connections

Before you start connecting equipment it is always wise to check whether all the mains power cables of all components are disconnected from the mains outlets!
This will prevent any damage to the loudspeakers and amplifiers caused by incorrect wiring or settings.

Make sure you connect L and R properly. Most cinch cables use Red for the Right channel and White or Black for Left.
All cinch connectors on the Myth 1's rear panel have a red centre for the right channel and a white one for the left channel.

When making the connections please refer to the descriptions for parts 14. to 25. on page 5.

Connecting the power amp

There are two outputs: OUT 1 and OUT 2.
Both can be used simultaneously.

Use a normal cinch cable (but of top quality!) to connect OUT 1 to the corresponding inputs of the power amp.
Use a normal cinch cable to connect OUT 2 to the corresponding inputs of another component, such as an extra power amp or surround processor.

Connecting a recorder

Connect the recorder's inputs to the TAPE OUT outputs.
Connect the recorder's outputs to TAPE IN.

Connecting the inputs

The seven unbalanced inputs may be used for any unbalanced line-level signal.

Connecting a tuner

Connect the output of a tuner to TUNER.

Connecting a CD player

Connect the unbalanced output of a CD player to CD.
You may connect more than one CD player: the other(s) may be connected to one of the LINE inputs.

Connecting other signal sources

LINE 1 to LINE 4 are available for other signal sources.

Connecting a video source

Connect the audio output of video source to the VIDEO input.

Connecting a turntable

There is no specific RIAA phono-input. When using a turntable you should pre-amplify the signal with a separate phono pre-amp (or *pre-pre-amp*).

Connect the output of a phono pre-amp to one of the inputs LINE 1 to LINE 4.
You may connect different pre-amps simultaneously.

Connecting the optical cables

The Myth 1 has two CONTROL OUT optical connectors so it can remotely switch other Sphinx components to stand-by.

When the CONTROL IN of a component is connected to the CONTROL OUT of the Myth 1 with an optical cable, you do not have to use that component's ON/OFF switch. As soon as the Myth 1 is selected to stand-by the other component is also selected to stand-by.

CONTROL OUT: These outputs are activated as soon as the Myth 1 is switched on.

Ensure proper connection of the optical cables (from CONTROL OUT to CONTROL IN), otherwise the LED next to the ❍·STANDBY button (11) on the front panel will not light although the stand-by mode is activated.

5. OPERATION

Connect the mains cable to a mains outlet.
Once you have finished connecting all components, you can power on the Myth 1 with the mains switch **O / I** (29) .

The volume control will then automatically turn counter-clockwise and for a while the STANDBY LED will blink red, after which it will remain red. The pre-amp is now in standby mode.

From now on you should switch the amp on or off with the ❍·STANDBY button (11).
That way, all circuits will remain at optimum operating temperatures and the audio quality will be 100% immediately after switching on. Additionally it significantly increases the life span of the component.

The Myth 1 is now in stand-by mode.

Power on

Switch the Myth 1 on with the ❍·STANDBY button. The pre-amp will select the CD input after which it un-mutes the output.

Selecting an input

You may select an input with one of the ❍·buttons 2. to 9.: the LED will illuminate.
The new input becomes active after you have selected it. You will hear a 'click'. This is caused by the precision relays for the inputs: the 'old' one is released while the new one is energised.

Adjusting the volume level

The large VOLUME control to the right adjusts the volume level from OFF to maximum (fully clockwise). The level change is immediate.

Temporarily set volume to ‘zero’

Press the ❍·MUTE button (10) temporarily mutes the sound. The red LED will light. Another press on this button un-mutes the output.

Power off

You switch the Myth 1 off (to stand-by) with the ❍·STANDBY button (11).

6. SPHINX REMOTE CONTROL

This single Sphinx Remote Control lets you control all functions: not only of the Myth 1, but of all other Sphinx equipment.

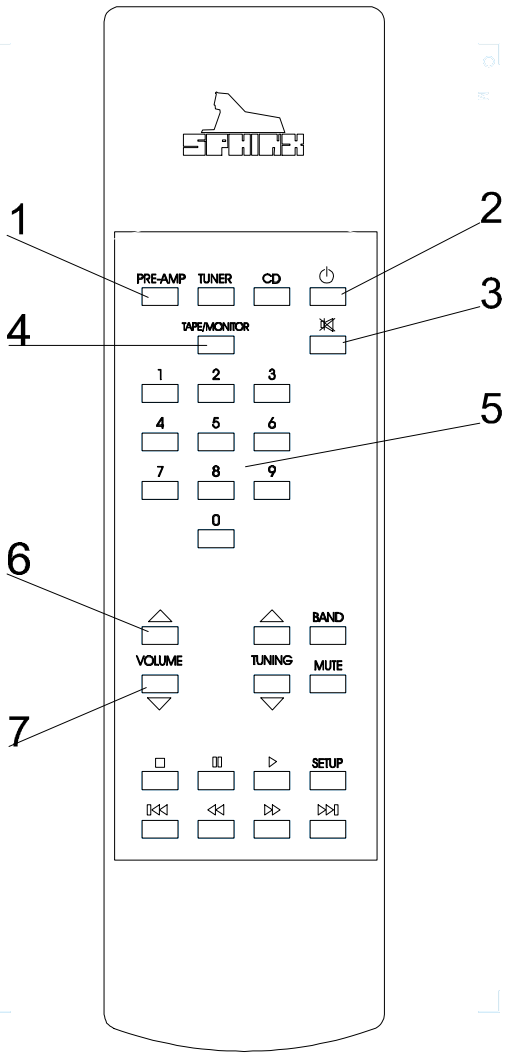
Only the following buttons and indications on the Remote apply to the Myth 1 (the others will not function):

Buttons and LED indication

1. **PRE-AMP:** To select the amp. All buttons pressed hereafter will control only the pre-amp functions.
   The buttons TUNER and CD will have no effect.
2. **STANDBY:** Use this red button to switch the Myth 1 to stand-by.
3. **:** Pressing this green button mutes the outputs (temporarily) and you will not hear any sound. The red LED will be illuminated. Another press on this button un-mutes the outputs
4. **TAPE/MONITOR:** Use this button to select the Tape IN input. Pressing this button has the same effect as pressing the TAPE/MON button (9) on the front panel.
   Note: The LED of the selected input (see 5.) will remain illuminated.
5. **1 - 7:** To select inputs CD to VIDEO (*Note: 8 to 0 do not function*):

1	CD	CD input
2	TUNER	Tuner
3	LINE 1	Line input 1
4	LINE 2	Line input 2
5	LINE 3	Line input 3
6	LINE 4	Line input 3
7	Video	Audio from video source

6. **Volume ⇧:** Pressing this button has the same effect as rotating the VOLUME control on the front panel clockwise. You increase the volume.
7. **Volume ⇩:** Pressing this button has the same effect as rotating the VOLUME control on the front panel anti-clockwise. You decrease the volume.



Operation

The Sphinx Remote is used with several different models and can therefore transmit different control codes, depending on which model has been selected with the select buttons (1).
Important: Always press the ❍·PRE-AMP button before you send a command (even if you only have one Sphinx component).
Otherwise it is possible that, although the Remote sends a signal, nothing happens because the transmitted signal is not 'recognised' by the component.
Indoors the Remote may be used up to a distance of 7 meter, provided there is no strong sunlight in the room and if you aim the Remote at the component. Always aim the Remote straight at the front panel of the component, the maximum offset angle is 30°.

Selecting without switching

Suppose, for instance, that you would like to select the Tuner to Radio 4 without interrupting CD playback.
In that case you momentarily depress (not longer than 0.5 sec) the ❍·TUNER button and the ❍·'4' button. The same procedure is used for the other system components.

How to operate the Remote Control with the different Sphinx components will be explained in the corresponding User Manual of each component.

Batteries

The four batteries have a life span of approximately one year during normal use, but shorter when used more intensely.
Replacement batteries: 1.5 V, model *micro* or *penlite* or *LR03* or *AAA* or *AM4* (one of these codes is indicated on the packaging and the batteries). You may also use rechargeable 1.5 V batteries.

Note: *Position the new batteries exactly as shown in the illustration at the bottom of the battery compartment, otherwise the Remote will not function!*

Encountering problems...

Remote Control does not work	
Wrong component selected	Select the correct one
Distance to component exceeds 7 m	Use Remote at closer range
Angle between Remote and component exceeds ±30°	Decrease angle
Sensor window on front dirty	Clean window
Batteries empty or incorrectly placed	Use new batteries or replace the old ones correctly
Strong (sun)light in room	Shade off light source
Component is not switched on (!)	Switch it on

Component reacts differently than expected or not at all	
Wrong component selected	Select the correct one
Component or Remote does not function	Check component with its original remote
Batteries in Remote empty	Use new batteries

7. CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Clean the exterior with a soft, lint-free, anti-static cloth. Do not use force while wiping the surface. To remove difficult stains use a few drops of detergent on a moist cloth, sweep carefully and wipe dry afterwards.

If some scratching occurs, please consult your Sphinx dealer first. He can give you advice about possible solutions.

Do not use polishing or cleaning agents: they may damage the sensitive acrylic finish.

Do not use aerosol cleaning agents.
Most contain solvents which might actively react with and damage the acrylic finish.

8. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Bandwidth	0 - 111,000 Hz (+0/-3 dB)
Phase response error	<2° (from 0 - 20,000 Hz)
Gain	9.5 dB max. 3 times.
THD+N (IHF-A)	<0.020% / 0.002% (IHF-A) (2^{nd} harm., 10 - 20,000 Hz)
IMD	<0.003%
S/N ratio (IHF-A)	>84dB / 100 dB (IHF-A)
Channel separation	>98 dB
Inputs	8x cinch (gold-plated)
Level, nominal (for 1 V output)	0.13 V (-18 dBV)
impedance	74 kΩ
Outputs	2x cinch Out 1, Out 2 (gold-plated) 1x cinch Tape (gold-plated)
level	10.5 V max. (20.42 dBV) (1 - 100,000 Hz, THD <0.002%)
impedance	<10 Ω
Volume control	ALPS motorised
channel imbalance	less than 2 dB
Sphinx Control	2x optical out
Remote control	Full function
Power supply	External, completely stabilized
Supply capacitance	16,280 µF total
Power consumption	11 W (9 W stand-by)
Dimensions (h x w x d)	75 x 434 x 350 mm
Weight	7 kg

This unit conforms to the EMC interference regulations issued by the EU and to the CE standards.
This unit complies with safety regulation VDE 0860 and therefore with international safety regulation IEC 65.

Technical specifications may be changed by SPHINX without prior notice if technical developments make this necessary.

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